

They, and so many others in the trans community, are rightfully taking up space while simultaneously creating space, utilizing their talents and skills to shape the Massachusetts 7th and beyond into a stronger and more beautiful place to live.

I am truly humbled to serve as their Congresswoman, and I will never stop fighting for bold and intentional policy solutions that promote and support their healing, safety, and justice.

CONDEMNING KIDNAPPING OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, 16,226 children in Ukraine have been taken from their families by Russia through forced transfers and deportations between February 24, 2022, and March 22, 2023. Let me say it again. 16,226 Ukrainian children have been taken from their homes and sent to Russia. Most people call this act kidnapping or abduction.

In March, the United Nations Human Rights Council determined that the Russian actions are a violation of human rights. On March 17, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for President Putin for these kidnappings.

When the Russians take these children, they are sent to “reeducation camps” where they wait until a Russian foster family is found.

What lies are told to these children? That their family is dead?

In the case of 12-year-old Sashko, the Russians told him his mother “no longer needed him.”

In March of 2022, Sashko and his mother, Snizhana, were captured in Mariupol and separated in the Russian camp, not even allowing them to say goodbye to each other. Sashko was taken to have an eye injury treated and was then placed in an orphanage. After some time, he found a phone and secretly called his grandmother. She gathered all of his documents and risked her own freedom and possible detainment to go and get him. The love of a grandmother.

With his grandmother’s efforts, his courage, and the assistance of a large network of government and nongovernment entities, they were happily reunited. Sadly, they have not heard from his mother or even know where she is.

While this story is hopeful, there are only 307 other children who share the same happiness of being returned to their families in Ukraine, which means there are approximately 16,000 missing Ukrainian children in Russia. We must join and support the Child Rights International Network, Bethany Christian Services, Voices of Children, and approximately 34 other organizations who are working together to save these children.

The concurrent resolution we are proposing and submitting today

strongly condemns this practice by Russia. This practice was employed by ruthless dictators like Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Pol Pot, Augusto Pinochet, and other sadistic tyrants. Today, we can add Putin to that terrible list.

Children everywhere should be protected from the cruelty of being ripped from their families and trafficked to another nation to be “reeducated” and placed with a foreign family under the guise of the child not having a family.

This resolution rebukes nations who provide aid and support to the Russian kidnapping enterprise. It condemns the forced adoption of Ukrainian children and implores Russia to work with international human rights and child welfare organizations to ensure the return of Ukrainian children to their home country and their families.

We should have zero moral ambiguity when it comes to Putin. He is a war criminal and is committing barbaric human rights violations. He should be a global outcast and be held accountable.

I thank Senator KLOBUCHAR for introducing the companion legislation in the Senate, and I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in this mission of getting the Ukrainian children home.

THANK YOU TO THE LINE WORKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the line workers in my district. They are literally keeping the lights on.

When ice storms hit, when the winds are hitting 60-miles-an-hour in my district, when we are warm in bed, the folks who work on the power lines are getting in their trucks and they are working in these conditions to keep and get the lights on.

Power transmission is not sexy. It does not get the status and the attention that a Tesla does or that many of our electrification projects do. But transmission is critical for grid resiliency and clean energy. We have got to focus our efforts on increasing transmission capacity.

I take this opportunity to specifically thank the linemen in my county, Skamania County. A few weeks ago, we had a huge winter storm. I woke up to 20 inches. A lot of people like me get our water from a well, so when the power is out, we don’t have water.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank all of those line folks who are keeping the power on, getting up in the middle of the night, and taking care of our power supply.

FUNDING FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about water infrastructure in my community.

A few weeks ago, I was reviewing congressional funding requests, and one pervasive theme that came up over

and over was municipal water infrastructure problems in the district. This issue touches every county in my district and every home, from Underwood to Long Beach to Washougal.

Over and over, we see infrastructure that is past its recommended life span, undersized, or on the brink of collapse, frankly. In order to resolve this, communities are forced to either slap a Band-Aid on it or take out massive loans. Some wastewater systems are also beginning to fail, and they have been releasing sewage into the environment, which places a lot of people at risk.

Local governments alone can’t address this issue. In the past, the government has mandated state-of-the-art equipment, essentially requiring that these folks put a Lamborghini sewer system in when what they really need is a Toyota Corolla. This makes it incredibly expensive and difficult to keep up with maintenance in a small community.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass Federal legislation that will ensure all Americans have access to clean energy.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG SHORTAGES

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the drug shortages happening across the country.

Like most Americans, I live on a budget. My monthly prescription just went from \$16 a month to \$250 a month, and we are seeing this across the board. We are seeing shortages in Infants’ Tylenol and in cough syrup. We have shortages of vital drugs. It is becoming incredibly difficult for everyday people to keep up with the cost of these necessary medications.

No surprise, Big Pharma can find the capacity to manufacture the expensive on-brand drugs, and they are actively stonewalling efforts to produce the generic drugs that working families can actually afford.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address this critical issue and ensure folks across the Nation can access their medications.

IN SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of law enforcement officers in my district and across the Nation.

The national starting wage for police officers is \$67,000 annually. That is not very much, folks. These are careers that we are asking people to step into the line of fire for us, and these wages do not reflect the risks of the job.

As a result, no surprise, recruitment and retention of good officers is the top issue facing law enforcement agencies across the country. But our Federal priorities don’t reflect this necessity. We are continually funding capital projects and not operating expenses. So while the cost of living is going up and up and up, we are funding, I kid you not, body cameras for dogs.

In my district, one of my local sheriff’s offices received Federal funding

for dog body cameras at a time when their deputy wages are struggling to keep up with the cost of living. We have got to make sure Federal resources are being spent wisely, not on, literally, pet projects.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in working to realign our Federal spending to reflect the real issues facing law enforcement.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LARRY CASSIDY

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Larry Cassidy.

When I first met Larry, I remember how amazed I was by his constant positivity. Larry was born in Portland but moved to Vancouver, the good side of the river, his home since 1966. He was a husband, father, and grandfather. He was passionate about salmon and steelhead in the Northwest and was a community activist and conservationist before receiving a Governor-appointed position on the Washington Game Commission.

Sadly, Larry passed away in January of this year after battling prostate cancer for 25 years.

I thank Larry for being a friend and a mentor. I stand with my community in being grateful to Larry for all he did in Washington's Third Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING ROGER CORDLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Private Second Class Roger Cordle. This U.S. Army veteran passed away on January 15, 2023, but not without making a strong impact on our community.

Mr. Cordle was awarded numerous medals and ribbons during his military career, including the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for serving during Operation Just Cause.

Mr. Cordle's dedication to service continued as the commander of VFW Post 2535 in Lockport, New York, and as commander of New York State VFW Post in District 7, which oversees Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming, Livingston, and Genesee Counties. During his time as commander of VFW Post 2535, the post was recognized as an all-state post for several years, one of only 24 in the State of New York.

As a leader in our community, Mr. Cordle was active in many of Post 2535's charity events, including providing holiday meals to veterans and families in need and also assisting homeless veterans.

Please join me in celebrating the life of Private Second Class Roger Cordle, who is survived by his beloved wife and five children.

His was a life well lived, and his commitment to this great Nation is an inspiration to us all.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF HOBART COLLEGE

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bicentennial of Hobart College.

2022 marked the 200th anniversary of Hobart's founding in Geneva, New York, making it one of America's 50 oldest colleges and universities.

When Hobart College, first named Geneva College, was founded in 1822, the United States was less than 50 years old, Washington, D.C., had been the Nation's capital for only 21 years, and Abraham Lincoln was just 13 years old. The college was located on the land of the Seneca Nation that for generations was the Haudenosaunee Confederacy's westernmost territory.

Hobart College was named after New York's third Episcopal Bishop, John Henry Hobart. Given Geneva's vibrant community, he saw the beautiful city as the perfect place to establish a college with the mission of educating students with a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum.

In 1908, Hobart's sister school, William Smith College for Women, was founded, which eventually merged in 1943 with Hobart to become Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Both colleges have an impressive legacy of producing men and women of leadership and national impact, including graduates like Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, who became the first American woman to receive a medical degree in 1849, and Harry W. Coover, Jr., the inventor of Super Glue.

Countless other Hobart and William Smith graduates have made profound contributions to public service, business, education, science, journalism, and spiritual life that endured well beyond their lifetimes. Indeed, my brother John, my cousin Jeff, and many of my friends are graduates of Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Today, Hobart College educates students from around the world who study on a campus of incomparable beauty. Guided by programs grounded in exploration and intellectual curiosity, both Hobart and William Smith Colleges challenge students to engage in critical and creative thinking. Under the faculty's mentorship, Hobart and William Smith students have won multiple prestigious fellowships like the Rhodes, Gates Cambridge, Fulbright, and Goldwater scholarships.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Hobart College on this historic milestone and wish the Hobart and William Smith Colleges community all the best as it continues to produce the next generation of leaders and innovators across the world.

□ 1045

HONORING DIANA VESGA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to highlight a Latina trailblazer, Diana Vesga. This remarkable woman is the chief operating officer of the Los

Angeles County Museum of Art, the largest art museum in the western United States.

Prior of joining the museum in 2014, she worked as an investment banker and as a senior executive at Univision.

A Colombian immigrant, she is one of the few Latinas in art museum leadership and only one of a few women to hold a chief operating officer position among the top art museums in the country. Just 10 percent of museum administrators nationwide are Hispanic or Latino, and even fewer are Latinas.

Diana grew up in a family of artists and art leaders and has used her unique perspective to embrace and value all cultures as the museum expands. As the new Smithsonian Museum of the American Latino is in development, we could use her wisdom and the wisdom of other Latinas and Latinos in the industry.

Mr. Speaker, Diana is an inspiration to Latinas everywhere.

SUPPORT MEDICAID FUNDING

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support funding for Medicaid, a crucial program saving millions of lives, including Latino lives.

Eager to balance our budget on the backs of poor people, my Republican colleagues have proposed extreme cuts to Medicaid. Medicaid has served and transformed millions of lives, especially in minority communities. Medicaid has been a vital lifeline for Latino communities which face disproportionate health crises, from diabetes to mental illness.

Since 2013, Medicaid expansion has cut the rate of uninsured Latinos in half, and Latino youth now make up over a third of children on Medicaid. This is a critical program and critical coverage for Latino communities.

It means a little boy struggling with chronic depression has access to mental health care. It means a working daughter can spend more time at home caring for her mother with Alzheimer's. It means less medical debt, fewer hospitalizations, and greater access to preventative care.

To cut costs, Republicans have suggested we impose work requirements, cut funding, or repeal the Affordable Care Act all together. All of these ideas would strip healthcare coverage from poor Americans who depend on Medicaid.

Republicans claim they want to balance our budget. In reality, they want to slash critical programs for underserved groups. The single mother of three who spends all day taking care of her children should not lose access to healthcare. The disabled senior who can't survive outside of an assisted living facility should not lose access to healthcare. The little girl with leukemia whose immigrant parents can't afford a cancer screening should not lose access to healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to protect Medicaid and invest in expanding it. Millions of Americans are depending on it.